



Ann Tompkins. . . was in Mainland China during the Cultural Revolution of 1966 and taught English to the Chinese people for four and one-half years.

# American woman praises spirit of Mainland Chinese

by H.J. Cummins

An American woman who said four and a half years in Mainland China calmed and liberated her, praised the spirit and "real feeling of power to the people" there which gets "better and better day by day."

Ann Tompkins said she taught English during the Chinese Cultural Proletarian Revolution in 1966 in the country she does not call "Mainland China."

"IT'S ALL one China," she said, adding she thought, and the Chinese did too, that Taiwan and so-called Red China would unite if the US 7th Fleet stopped "interfering in the internal affairs of China."

She said travel in Red China would convince the Nationalists, as well as Americans, that the socialist country has cured racism, unemployment and hunger problems.

Americans are given a false impression of the country through newspapers, Tompkins said.

"YOU HAVE TO have an

awful lot of money to own a newspaper in the country," she explained, adding the people in that socio-economic level probably don't want working class people in America to see the really good level of living their counterparts have in China.

Tompkins explained the Cultural Revolution she was part of was the second step in true socialism in China. It "protects and defends" the original socialist revolution of 1949, she said, and is necessary to keep capitalism from "creeping back in."

"There are some who don't like the new society," she said, and who seek to re-introduce exploitation into China.

SHE SAID although all private ownership was ended in China in 1957, "there were and are still ideas in peoples' minds that exploit others."

One way China insures the peoples' desires are obeyed, she said, is electing leaders who "work right along with all other laborers."

"Leaders don't suddenly disappear," but their leadership duties are "extra tasks," she said.

IT IS ALL part of what the Chinese call "Serve the People" orientation by which, Tompkins said, the "society of workers" is concerned about others before itself.

Decisions are made on the commune level, she explained, adding the average commune has about 10,000 people.

The commune is subdivided into a brigade level, then a

production team level (the one she was a part of was about 140 people) and it is at the lowest level leaders are elected, she said.

THE PEOPLE vote in "all fields" from education to health aid to industrial production to agricultural production, she said. They also run their own schools, and their own militia, she said.

Tompkins said the trip to China came after she had worked in the slums of Manhattan.

"I got alienated from my job," she said. "The very rich from 5th Avenue paid me and made the policies. I realized that if the rich wanted it, it must be bad for the poor."

SHE SAID A summer tour of Europe led her to a World Peace Conference in Helsinki, Finland, where she was very excited by the Peking delegation.

"I asked them if I would be useful to them in China," Tompkins said. She was amazed, she said, when she was allowed to go.

Tompkins said she came back to America to work here in what Mao Tse Tung predicted would be a world revolution.

MAO'S 1969 statement said there are two possibilities for the world's future, she said, that "world war will bring on revolution or revolution will prevent world war."

Tompkins is touring the country, speaking on her experiences in China. She plans to write a book on the trip this winter, she said.

## ASUN. . .

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said Sen. Patti Kaminski.

Sen. Roy Baldwin said ASUN must assert the power given to it by Board of Regents, however, some senators suggested that other committees in the University have usurped that power.

The restructuring committee may find that ASUN has no real function at all, said Kaminski.

The bill which would enable ASUN to provide loans for students who can't afford the medical and transportation costs of an abortion was tabled until next week.

## YAF opposes PIRG fee subsidy

The Nebraska Young Americans for Freedom (YAF) have announced intentions to oppose all attempts by the Nebraska Public Research Interest Group (NEBPIRG) to obtain student fee subsidies from Nebraska colleges and universities.

Young Americans for Freedom state chairman Terrell Cannon stated that YAF opposes the public interest organization because they believe that for the universities and colleges to grant a subsidy to one particular lobbying bloc, they would be required

to grant subsidies to all student groups making similar claims, something that would be neither practical nor desirable.

"Nebraska YAF believes that students, as individuals, hold varying views on public issues, and that for any group to claim that it does, or will, represent student interests is to deny the individuality of students," commented Cannon.

YAF feels that NEBPIRG, like other campus political groups, should be required to raise money by voluntary contributions. "If NEBPIRG

truly represents student interests they should have no difficulty in obtaining contributions," said Cannon.

"A subsidy granted by out universities and colleges to any student group over which these institutions have little effective control would serve to bind the prestige and reputation of higher education in Nebraska to the conduct of student groups who may then antagonize public opinion against education in general," said Cannon.

YAF is in the process of preparing literature for use against the subsidy program proposed by NEBPIRG.

## PIRG organizes chapter, public interest projects

The familiar phrases echoed by many college students concerning attitudes of "do your own thing" and "become involved" can now be exercised at UNL through the Public Interest Research Group (PIRG), according to one organizer.

PIRG is an organization based on the public interest projects advocated by Ralph Nader, according to Deanne Canar. However, Nader and his organization are connected with PIRG only in resource and advisory capacities.

SOME 25 students are working on organizing a PIRG chapter at UNL. Kearney State, UNO, Midland, Dana, Concordia, Creighton, Wayne State, Doane, College of St. Mary and Wesleyan have formed public interest research groups.

Canar, the PIRG coordinator at UNL, said representatives of Nebraska college campuses decided to push for referendums on the state campuses to provide student fees to finance the organization. If approved the student assessment would finance Nebraska PIRG projects.

"PIRG IS AN organization for all people. It is unique in that the interested member will have the opportunity to work with the area he is most

concerned with, whatever it is," said Canar.

PIRG consists of a staff of professionals who work on the problems of the state and decide on priorities. PIRG, although student-based, works with the community. A number of community organizations in Lincoln have contacted the UNL chapter and are interested in participating in projects.

According to Canar the organization is having some trouble recruiting PIRG members because organizers are attempting to reach students on a personal basis in order to discover their specific interests.

PIRG IS looking for people who are willing to spend some time and effort to work on the projects they are interested in. PIRG welcomes research information on any subject which will be used as resource material, Canar said.

Involvement in PIRG, according to Canar, can make the student experience a relevant one as well as giving the community an input which will directly benefit them as consumers.

The group, sponsored by ASUN, will be setting up an office in the Nebraska Union within the next few weeks. PIRG meetings are every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Union.

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